Noted ACTRESSES PLEAD for LADY NICOTINE

BLANCHE RING,
Who Thinks It Is Right for Women to Smoke.

MRS. CAMPBELL and Blanche Ring Believe in Dainty CIGARETTES For the Fair Sex, But Rose Stahl Says: "NO!"

SHOULD women smoke in public?

"YES," deciare Mrs. Pat Campbell, Blanche Ring, and hosts of noted actresse as well as exponents of the "new woman."

"NO," answer Rose Stahl, who is one of the best known of the actresses who advocate the old-fashioned ideas of womanly propriety, and the millions of women in private life who believe as our mothers and grandmothers did.

The question, which caused widespread discussion a few years ago and was debated from ocean to ocean, has just been revived by the effort of Mrs. Pat Campbell to indulge in a dainty, perfumed cigarette in the tea room of the Plaza Hotel in New York.

Mine host emphatically declared: "You shall not!"

Mrs. Campbell became wrathy. As her indignation grew, she waxed voluble and she expressed her views on the question of women smoking in very explicit words.

MANY [illegible] actresses in America come forward [illegible] of Mrs. Campbell's action, and expressions of opinion as to the right or wrong of a woman to indulge in Lady Nicotine have flooded the width and length of New York. They have come from notable persons in both public and private life.

Proprietors of hotels and fashionable cafes have come forward with their opinions and statements of rules on the subject that regulate their places.

At a majority of the best known hotels and cafes the positive statement is made that smoking by women will not be tolerated.

It is said at two of the most famous of Broadway restaurants that no serious objection is made by the management, provided the women are well behaved and did not attract too much notice.

It is not uncommon in these two restaurants for a beautifully gowned woman to draw forth her cigarette and smoke it with as genuine enjoyment as the men derive from their cigars. Such action would have been called scandalous a few years ago, but a cosmopolitan element has come into the life of the metropolis, which appears to be the forerunner of indiscriminate public smoking by women.

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Miss Eddiss Emphatic.

Miss Connie Eddiss, of the "Girl Behind the Counter," and Miss Blanche Ring, of "The Gay White Way," are emphatic that women should be allowed to smoke n public if they choose, and that many women here do smoke when they choose.

"There is no reason why Mrs. Campbell's cigarette should have been de trop," says Miss Ediss. "I have lived most of my life abroad, and I know from personal observation that women smoke in all the hotels and restaurants in London and on the Continent. The fact of their smoking is taken as a matter of course.

"If Mr. Martin has said that women may smoke at the Cafe Martin, I think he has taken a step in the right direction. New York grows more cosmopolitan every year, and the time should not be far off when the smoking of a cigarette by a woman in a restaurant will attract no more attention than the cigar of her escort."

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Blanche Ring Outspoken.

Blanche Ring is equally outspoken.

"Why shouldn't a woman smoke in public if she chooses?" she demanded. Personally, I don't smoke, because cigarettes hurt my singing. But I have smoked, and I see no harm in it.

"It all depends, of course, on how a woman conducts herself while smoking. If the smoking is a matter of vulgar display or silly affectation, the matter is different. But where a woman is used to smoking her after-dinner cigarette, there can be no possible objection.

"If well-bred American women smoke with evident enjoyment in public places abroad, I fail to see why these same women and others can make any violent objection to the custom here."

Mrs. Clinton B. Fisk, national president of the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a noted clubwoman, decidedly does not approve. She declares that women should make it known in no uncertain manner that smoking by women in public will never be tolerated in America.

"I hope I shall never see the day," says Mrs. Fisk, "when women are allowed to smoke in public dining rooms of hotels and restaurants in this city. Smoking by women is unhealthful, it is unwomanly, and un-American.

"I do not believe Americans will ever so lose their old-fashioned conceptions of what a woman may or may not do in public, that the custom of the after-dinner cigarette will become general.

"I am utterly opposed to women smoking either in public or private, and my sentiments are assuredly those of most American women."

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Rose Stahl Opposed.

Rose Stahl, starring in "The Chorus Lady," is one of the few actresses that cling to the old idea that a woman should not [illegible] her lips with the cigarette or spiritous liquor. She is so decided in her opinions on the subject that she has even been called a crank upon the subject, but her views remain unchanged.

In her play she has to smoke one cigarette at every performance, and she does it with the air of a martyr. In everyday life she is so opposed to the use of nicotine and liquor that she will have no woman associated with her in her company who will indulge in either.

John Martin, proprietor of the Cafe Martin, said he had always provided a private smoking room for women and that for years women had been allowed to smoke in the private dining rooms. Now, he says, well conducted women may smoke in the public dining rooms and restaurants; all over the house, in fact, with the exception of the Broadway cafe.

"The smoking of a cigarette all depends upon the woman," he said. "We do not forbid it. If women we know desire to smoke, they are permitted to do so, provided they do not make a display of themselves. Smoking is permitted everywhere abroad, and American women are as addicted to the habit there as are their European sisters. I believe the time is coming when all hotels and restaurants will permit women to smoke in their public rooms."

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Neither Urged Nor Opposed.

At Rector's it was stated that women have smoked there, and that, while the habit is not encouraged, neither is it frowned upon.

"It all depends upon the woman," it was said. "Women we know to be addicted to cigarette smoking are permitted to smoke. That is, they are not seen. It involves discretion on the part of those in charge of the public restaurants. The habit is gaining ground in America as a result of European travel. Everywhere there the custom is universal and attracts no attention."

At the Plaza, Manhattan, Belmont, Waldorf, Knickerbocker, Astor, and other big hotels, it was stated by the managements that old-fashioned American ideas would prevail for years to come.

At the Hotel Lafayette, Raymond Orteig said women might smoke in private dining rooms, but that he did not believe the time had come when American sentiment would countenance indiscriminate public smoking by women.

MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL,
Who Started the Discussion Anew.

ROSE STAHL,
Who Is Emphatically Opposed to Nicotine or Liquor in Any Form.

The du Pont Nerve Won; Premier Outgeneraled

EARLY in 1862 Mr. Lincoln commissioned La Motte du Pont, then twenty-eight years old, to go abroad and purchase saltpetre, and in this connection comes a hitherto unwritten chapter in American history. Leaving on the briefest notice, La Motte du Pont arrived in England, having been told that $500,000 in gold would follow by the next steamer. He carried a letter of introduction from E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. to Brown, Shipley & Co., of London. Going among the saltpetre brokers, du Pont bought their entire supply, and in a few days the saltpetre was being rapidly delivered. The purchase was to be for cash, but the next steamer failed to bring the gold. His worry was increased when the second ship to arrive from the United States did not bring the promised shipment. He continued his purchases, storing the supply of saltpetre in a great warehouse in readiness to ship.

On the third steamer the gold arrived from America, and, just as he saw his mission about complete, the London Times came out opposing the shipment. So vigorously was the opposition that La Motte du Pont chartered a ship and quickly recruited a crew. Many of the men he secured were from vessels captured by the Confederate warship Alabama. As the last of the cargo was being taken aboard, preparatory to leaving at high tide at 4 o'clock on the following morning, a customs officer reached the wharf with orders to stop the shipment. Young du Pont was told that the order to stop shipment came from Lord Palmerston, the British premier. Despite this, the direction to the captain was: "We will sail at 4 tomorrow morning, order or no order. I will be there at precisely that hour."

He arranged with the wharf master to open the locks, and retired. Before dawn the next morning the wharf master's men manned the capstan, and were opening the locks when a file of British soldiers approached. The men were ordered to reverse their direction, and the partly opened locks were closed. That ended all chance of getting the ship out of port, and La Motte du Pont took the first steamer for New York.

Going direct to Washington, he reported to Secretary Seward, who gave him two letters, one to Lord Palmerston and the other to Minister Adams at the court of St. James. The first set forth in short sentences that if permission to ship the saltpetre was not given immediately, it would be considered as a declaration of war. The other letter directed Minister Adams to return to Washington at once if shipment was not permitted.

La Motte du Pont reached England by the next steamer, and on his arrival in London conferred with Minister Adams, later calling upon Lord Palmerston for permission to ship the saltpetre. "Lord Palmerston is engaged," said the flunky, and Du Pont called at a later time, receiving the same reply, he called a third and, then a fourth time, but Lord Palmerston still was engaged. Inquiring whether the premier was in and receiving the answer that he was, La Motte du Pont approached the door of his office. The attendant sprang upon him and the attendant lost his balance and reeled. Freed for the moment, Du Pont walked quickly into Lord Palmerston's office and laid his card upon the desk in front of the premier. His lordship appeared confused, but said hurriedly, "I am glad to see you, Mr. du Pont." "I wish permission to ship the saltpetre," said the American. "This is an important matter," was the reply. "I cannot decide without a conference." It then was agreed that du Pont should call at 5 o'clock that afternoon for the decision of the conference. When he called he was told that permission would not be granted. "Lord Palmerston," said du Pont, "I am under orders from my government; Mr. Adams and I leave this evening for Liverpool to catch tomorrow's steamer." Turning, he abruptly left the room.

That evening, shortly after 7 o'clock, as La Motte du Pont sat at dinner in Morley's Hotel, the landlord bustled in and announced excitedly that Lord Palmerston was at the door, and that he wished to see Mr. du Pont. "Ask Lord Palmerston in," was the reply. "I have nearly finished my dinner, and I will be with him in a few minutes."

The ship cleared and the saltpetre was sent to the United States.

THE WORLD'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER

IT is little more than eighteen years since Bradford le Gilbert erected the first skyscraper at 50 Broadway, New York. It was an eleven-story building. One day, when it was still in the skeleton stage, he decided to climb up through the network of steel pillars and girders while a gale of wind was blowing. He wished to make some tests of the effect of the storm on the skeleton. The people watching him from the sidewalk said he took his life in his hand. They expected to see the structure topple and fall, burying the hapless inventor in the ruins.

Le Gilbert returned to the earth unhurt—a victor who had given the world a new idea that was to revolutionize the American city.

Since then skyscrapers have become almost a commonplace. Higher and higher they have soared—eleven, fourteen, eighteen, twenty, twenty-five, forty-one or more stories—piling wonder on wonder, transforming Wall, Nassau, and Pine streets into narrow canyons between cliffs of steel and stone and making Trinity Church, the finest building in the city half a century ago, a mere foothill of the great skyscraper range.

Then came the new idea, just carried to success, which made men doubt if there were any limits to the height of the skyscraper. The tower of the Singer building, at 147 Broadway, began to soar into the air, piling story upon story, until there were forty-seven in all, and the lantern that crowned the steel skeleton was fastened in place 612 feet above the sidewalk.—Broadway Magazine.